

# News Release



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 10, 2012

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## ELEPHANT SEAL GUIDED WALKS AT AÑO NUEVO STATE PARK

The spectacle of elephant seals returns soon to Año Nuevo State Park and access to see these massive marine animals will be a hot ticket. Get ready to make reservations for guided walks so you don't miss out.

Año Nuevo is home to one of the largest mainland elephant seal colonies in the world. The seals come ashore in mid-December to birth pups and breed. Males weighing up to 5,000 pounds will battle fiercely for mates. To limit human impact on these magnificent animals, the only way to see these seals between December 15 and March 31 is through guide walks.

Public walks for families, individuals, or groups are offered daily except December 25 (Christmas) and Seal Adventure Weekend, January 26 and 27, when longer tours are offered. School group walks are offered Monday through Friday mornings for grades 1 through 12.

Reservations open for school groups Saturday, October 6, 2012, at 9 a.m. Public reservations begin October 20, 2012, up to 56 days in advance of your planned visit. For reservations contact ReserveAmerica at 1-800-444-4445 or <http://anonuevo.reserveamerica.com/>. Individuals with accessibility needs can participate in Equal Access guided walks on weekends January 1 to March 31. Call (650) 879-2033 December 1 or later to make a reservation.

For folks who want to spend more time observing fascinating elephant seals, the Seal Adventure Weekend, hosted by the San Mateo Coast Natural History Association (SMCNHA) and California State Parks January 26 and 27, is just the ticket. For one weekend only, visitors will have extraordinary access to linger for an entire morning or afternoon to view the elephant seals at the peak of the breeding season.

Proceeds from this event support educational and interpretive programs in State Parks along the San Mateo coast. Tickets go on sale online ([www.smcnha.org](http://www.smcnha.org)), starting in early November. Tickets are \$50 per person and limited to only 100 visitors per half-day session.

For more information on Año Nuevo State Park, dial (650) 879-2025 or (650) 879-0227 for recorded information or visit the Park's web site at [http://www.parks.ca.gov/?page\\_id=523](http://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=523).

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**California State Parks on the Internet: [www.parks.ca.gov](http://www.parks.ca.gov)>**

